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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Our Power Releases Statement on Bipartisan Amendment to Governor’s Utility Bill

AUGUSTA – Our Power, a group of Maine ratepayers, business leaders, energy experts, conservationists, and others committed to putting the Pine Tree State’s energy future in the hands of Mainers, issued the following statement in response to three competing amendments put forward to [L.D. 1959](#), the Governor’s Utility bill, on Friday. Late in the day, the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology split three ways on their recommendations to the full Legislature on the high-profile bill.

“Our Power is pleased to see that the only bipartisan amendment, the one put forward by Reps. Berry, Carlow, Grohoski and Kessler, was also the strongest medicine for CMP and Versant,” said Andrew Blunt, Our Power’s Interim Executive Director.

“While it does not require the replacement of CMP and Versant by a low-cost, locally-controlled utility, the bipartisan amendment on L.D. 1959 does put forward actual accountability measures. We urge policymakers to support the bipartisan amendment, and we also urge Mainers to continue pushing for the consumer-owned utility referendum since no amount of regulation can fix the poor service and high costs baked into CMP and Versant’s DNA.”

The bipartisan amendment to LD 1959 requires a periodic franchise renewal process for CMP and Versant, with competition for the monopoly privilege, competitive bidding for utility spending to keep rates down, audits of “report card” data submitted by the utilities, strong penalties for a PUC finding of utility misbehavior, improved cost-savings requirements, and a planning process that starts with the Commission or a third party rather than with CMP and Versant.

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